

Creative Rebellion and Punishment

Romantic View: Creativity, Rebellion and Destruction

- Creativity associated with destruction
 - Total break with the past
- Rebellion
 - Novel actively replaces traditional
 - Typifies great advances in arts and sciences

Creative Rebellion: Impressionism

- Rebellion against classicism
 - New approach to painting
 - Painting outdoors
 - Focus on catching impression of the moment
 - Use of light and strong colors

Creative Rebellion: Impressionism

- Ridiculed by public
- Condemned by art critics
- 20 years before style was recognized and appreciated

Creative Rebellion:Steampunk Movement

- NPR: “**Steampunk Brings Victorian Flair to the 21st Century**”
- **Modern-day technologies + Victorian-era aesthetics**
- Examples
 - Literature
 - Movies
 - Technology mods
 - Art
 - Music

Creative Rebellion: Symbolist Movement

- Literary sub-movement of Romanticism
 - Extended power of words
 - Express things beyond everyday awareness
- Themes
 - Inner self
 - Finding beauty the malignant and evil
- Creative rebellion extended to life choices

La Muse malade

My poor Muse, alas! what ails you today?
 Your hollow eyes are full of nocturnal visions;
 I see in turn reflected on your face
 Horror and madness, cold and taciturn.

Have the green succubus, the rosy elf,
 Poured out for you love and fear from their urns?
 Has the hand of Nightmare, cruel and despotic,
 Plunged you to the bottom of some weird
 Minturnae?

I would that your bosom, fragrant with health,
 Were constantly the dwelling place of noble
 thoughts,
 And that your Christian blood would flow in
 rhythmic waves

Like the measured sounds of ancient verse,
 Over which reign in turn the father of all songs,
 Phoebus, and the great Pan, lord of harvest.

Creative Rebellion and the Creative Rebel

- Rebellion against social norms and the establishment
- Advocated derangement of senses
 - Drink, drugs, and depredation
- Artistic pleasure in shocking their audiences
 - “Cursed poets”
 - Baudelaire, Rimbaud

Characteristics of the Creative Rebel

- Goal is the search for novelty
- Ignore society, tradition, morality, or consequences
- Creativity expression of will
 - Strengthened by resistance
 - “Every artist is a criminal”

Creativity, Rebellion, and Madness

- Creative rebellion rooted in destruction
 - Destroying artistic norms
 - Destroying social norms
- Creativity rooted in madness
 - Purposely altered perceptions
 - Rebellion despite consequences

Creative Rebellion: Psychodynamic Approach

- Two basic drives motivate behavior
 - Eros (life/creative/sexual instinct)
 - Thanatos (death/destructive instinct)
- Personality components
 - Id
 - Unconscious, irrational, amoral, instant gratification of drives
 - Ego
 - Conscious, rational, realistically satisfies id
 - Superego
 - Morals

Creative Rebellion: Psychodynamic Approach

- Ego transforms threatening id impulses
 - Creativity is a defense mechanism
 - Origin in unconscious
 - Symbolic satisfaction of sexual and destructive impulses
- Creativity is rooted in pathology

Creativity, Rebellion, and Madness

- “Creative rebels” and “romantic rebellion” rooted in insanity
 - Mad scientist
 - Tortured artist

Examples of Creative Rebels

- Arthur Rimbaud (poet)
- Richard Feynman (physicist)
- Timothy Leary (psychologist)

Creative Rebel: Arthur Rimbaud (1854 – 1891)

- Precocious boy-poet of French symbolism
– “Cursed Poet”

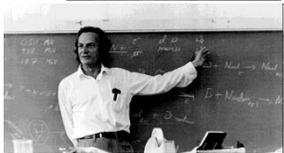


Vowels

A Black, E white, I red, U green, O blue : vowels,
I shall tell, one day, of your mysterious origins:
A, black velvety jacket of brilliant flies
Which buzz around cruel smells,
Gufts of shadow; E, whiteness of vapours and of
tents,
Lances of proud glaciers, white kings, shivers of
cow-parsley;
I, purples, spat blood, smile of beautiful lips
In anger or in the raptures of penitence;
U, waves, divine shuddering of viridian seas,
The peace of pastures dotted with animals, the
peace of the furrows
Which alchemy prints on broad studious foreheads;
O, sublime Trumpet full of strange piercing sounds,
Silences crossed by Worlds and by Angels:
O the Omega, the violet ray of Her Eyes!

Creative Rebel: Richard Feynman (1918 – 1988)

- Nobel prize winning
Physicist
- Helped create the
atom bomb



Creative Rebel: Timothy Leary (1920 – 1996)

- Lecturer in psychology at Harvard
- Part of the counter-cultural movement of the 60's
 - “Turn on, tune in, drop out”



Consequences of Creative Rebellion

- Positive
 - Wealth, power, fame, opportunity
- Negative
 - Poverty, censure, imprisonment, exile, death

